## Ultra-Small Optical Encoder Modules

Avago Technologies introduced an enhanced series of cost-competitive ultra-small optical encoder modules with resolutions of up to 360 lines per inch – the highest in the industry. These new encoder modules make it possible for manufacturers to produce more compact inkjet printers, photo printers and all-in-ones, that can provide higher quality images that today's customers want. The AEDS-964x series are a drop-in replacement for Avago's AEDS-962x series.

Avago's AEDS-964x modules are used with a transmissive code strip to detect linear motion or with an 11 mm optical-radius transmissive code wheel for detecting rotary motion. Their primary application is to provide position, speed and direction feedback to the circuitry controlling inkjet print head carriages, as well as paper patch control. They offer excellent performance and reliability in conventional inkjet printers, photo printers, multifunction printers, plotters, fax machines and scanners.

The Avago AEDS-964x series transmissive optical encoder modules are priced at $4.06 to $5.08 each (subject to resolution) in 1000-piece quantities.

Web: www.avagotech.com/motioncontrol

## Lite-On Licenses Cree White LED Patent

Cree, Inc., and Lite-On Technology announced a licensing arrangement to enhance both companies' ability to aggressively develop and market white LED-based products for backlighting laptop computer displays. The arrangement includes a license for Cree's pioneering white LED patent, US Patent 6,600,175. The license authorizes Lite-On, a strategic chip customer for Cree located in Taiwan, to manufacture and sell light bars incorporating Cree white LEDs for use in backlighting the LCD displays of laptops. This marks the first license Cree has granted specifically for a system-level application targeting laptop displays.

"Cree's '175 patent is particularly important to companies manufacturing white LED-based display products for the laptop and PC markets, because avoiding IP disputes is essential for PC market acceptance," noted Scott Schwab, Cree VP and GM of optoelectronics. "This arrangement with Lite-On is an important first step to addressing the emerging LED market in laptop displays."

"We knew we needed a strong LED technology with a broad intellectual property portfolio for our new backlighting products," said Rex Wu, Lite-On associate vice president. "Lite-On turned to Cree to provide a significant competitive advantage for products sold into the laptop backlighting marketplace."

Web: www.liteon.com *and* www.cree.com

## AU Optronics Completes Merger with Quanta Display

AU Optronics announced the completion of its merger with Quanta Display (QDI). Following the signing of a merger agreement on April 7, 2006, the merger has been approved by the Fair Trade Commission (FTC), Taiwan's Executive Yuan and by the shareholders of AUO and QDI.

KY Lee and HB Chen will remain as chairman/CEO and president/COO, respectively, of the post-merger AUO.

After the merger, AUO will rank as the world's top maker of large-size TFT LCD panels with an estimated market share of approximately 20.9%. The company will also rank as the world's top maker of notebook panels with a market share of over 25%. Moreover, after the merger AUO will rank as the second and third largest maker in the world of monitor panels and TV panels, respectively.

Web: www.auo.com

## LG.Philips LCD Unveils New LCD Panel for Super-Slim Mobile Phones – Thinner Than OLED

LG.Philips LCD has developed the world's slimmest TFT-LCD panel, measuring only 1.3 mm in thickness including the module, for super-slim mobile phones.

This latest technological breakthrough will enable mobile phone manufacturers to produce mobile phones even slimmer than the 6.9 mm thick phones available today. This panel will also make it possible to create slide-up phones that break the 10 mm barrier.

This new panel is 32% slimmer than the TFT-LCD panels currently in use for mobile phones, which normally measure between 1.9 and 2.9 mm. More importantly, the new product is even slimmer than OLEDs, which are typically between 1.5 and 1.8 mm which refutes the myth that LCDs are thicker than OLEDs.

LG.Philips LCD's VP and Head of the Small and Medium Displays Business Unit, Mr. Hyun He Ha, said, "Super-slim LCD panels are one of the most important technologies for mobile phones today, and this latest development reaffirms LG.Philips LCD's global leadership in LCD technology. Our introduction of a super-slim LCD panel measuring just 1.3 mm in thickness will further accelerate the shift to slim design phones."

In addition to its ultra-thin LED backlight technology that can raise the brightness of the panel to 400 nits1 (cd/$m^2$), LG.Philips LCD used new ultra-thin light guide plate and glass substrate technologies to further reduce the panel's thickness. Current brightness is between 200 and 300 nits (cd/$m^2$). This super-slim LCD panel also uses the company's patent pending structural modification technology to provide greater durability without the need for a stainless steel plate to protect the LCD's components.

Web: www.lgphilips-lcd.com